

In the claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A hand brake assembly engageable with a railway vehicle, said hand brake assembly comprising:

(a) an operating means having at least a portion thereof engageable with at least one gear of a gear assembly disposed in a housing member of said hand brake assembly for operating said gear assembly in an application direction, said operating means includes at least one valve means;

(b) a source of fluid pressure connected to said at least one valve means of said operating means for periodically supplying a predetermined pressure to said operating means at least sufficient to cause movement in such application direction of said at least one gear of said gear assembly; and

(c) a means connected to said source of fluid pressure for initiating said supply of said predetermined pressure to said operating means thereby causing an automatic movement of said gear assembly in such application direction by said hand brake assembly.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Previously Amended) A hand brake assembly, according to claim 1, wherein said hand brake assembly further includes an overload protection means connected to one of said source of fluid pressure and said operating means for preventing an overload.

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Currently Amended) A hand brake assembly, according to claim 4 1, wherein said operating means includes a plurality of valve means for connecting said source of fluid pressure to said operating means.

6. (Currently Amended) A hand brake assembly, according to claim 4 1, wherein said hand brake assembly further includes means for venting said fluid pressure from said at least one valve means.

7. (Previously Amended) A hand brake assembly, according to claim 5, wherein said hand brake assembly further includes means for venting said fluid pressure from said plurality of valve means.

8. (Previously Amended) A hand brake assembly, according to claim 7, wherein said operating means includes a piston member connected to said source of fluid pressure.

9. (Previously Amended) A hand brake assembly, according to claim 8, wherein said hand brake assembly further includes a valve shifting means, a first portion of said valve shifting means is connected to said piston member and a second portion of said valve

shifting means is connected to at least one of said plurality of valve means.

10. (Previously Amended) A hand brake assembly, according to claim 2 31, wherein said source of fluid pressure is pneumatic.

11. (Previously Amended) A hand brake assembly, according to claim 10, wherein said timing means includes a choke and a reservoir.

12. (Previously Amended) A hand brake assembly, according to claim 1, wherein said means for initiating said supply of said predetermined pressure to said operating means is one of a push button and a signal communicated to said means for initiating said supply of said predetermined pressure.

13. (Previously Amended) A hand brake assembly, according to claim 1, wherein said means for initiating said supply of said predetermined pressure to said operating means is a push button.

14. (Previously Withdrawn) A hand brake assembly, according to claim 1, wherein said means for initiating said supply of said predetermined pressure to said operating means is a signal communicated to said means for initiating said supply of said

predetermined pressure by one of a radio frequency signal and an electrical signal.

15. (Previously Withdrawn) A hand brake assembly, according to claim 14, wherein said signal for initiating said supply of said predetermined pressure to said operating means is said electrical signal.

16. (Previously Withdrawn) A hand brake assembly, according to claim 3, wherein said overload protection means includes a pressure regulating means.

17. (Previously Amended) A hand brake assembly, according to claim 1, wherein said hand brake assembly further includes a slip clutch connected to said operating means to provide an overload protection means for said operating means.

18. (Previously Withdrawn) A hand brake assembly engageable with a railway vehicle, said hand brake assembly comprising:

(a) an operating means having at least a portion thereof engageable with at least one gear of a gear assembly disposed in a housing member of said hand brake assembly for operating said gear assembly in an application direction;

(b) a source of fluid pressure connected to said operating means for periodically supplying a predetermined pressure to said operating means at least sufficient to cause movement in such application direction of said at least one gear of said gear assembly;

(c) a means connected to said source of fluid pressure for initiating said supply of said predetermined pressure to said operating means thereby causing an automatic movement of said gear assembly in such application direction by said hand brake assembly;

(d) a timing means connected intermediate said operating means and said source of fluid pressure for controlling said predetermined pressure being periodically supplied to said operating means; and

(e) an overload protection means connected to one of said source of fluid pressure and said operating means for preventing an overload.

19. (Previously Withdrawn) A hand brake assembly, according to claim 18, wherein said operating means includes:

(a) at least one valve means for connecting said source of fluid pressure to said operating means;

(b) means for venting said fluid pressure from said at least one valve means; and

(c) a piston member connected to said source of fluid pressure.

20. (Previously Withdrawn) A hand brake assembly, according to claim 19, wherein said operating means includes a plurality of valve means for connecting said source of fluid pressure to said operating means.

21. (Previously Withdrawn) A hand brake assembly, according to claim 20, wherein said hand brake assembly further includes means for venting said fluid pressure from said plurality of valve means.

22. (Previously Withdrawn) A hand brake assembly, according to claim 21, wherein said hand brake assembly further includes a valve shifting means, a first portion of said valve shifting means is connected to said piston member and a second portion of said valve shifting means is connected to at least one of said plurality of valve means.

23. (Previously Withdrawn) A hand brake assembly, according to claim 18, wherein said source of fluid pressure is pneumatic.

24. (Previously Withdrawn) A hand brake assembly, according to claim 23, wherein said timing means includes a choke and a reservoir.

25. (Previously Withdrawn) A hand brake assembly, according to claim 18, wherein said means for initiating said supply of said predetermined pressure to said operating means is a push button.

26. (Previously Withdrawn) A hand brake assembly, according to claim 18, wherein said means for initiating said supply of said predetermined pressure to said operating means is a signal communicated to said means for initiating said supply of said predetermined pressure by one of a radio frequency signal and an electrical signal.

27. (Previously Withdrawn) A hand brake assembly, according to claim 26, wherein said signal for initiating said supply of said predetermined pressure to said operating means is said electrical signal.

28. (Previously Withdrawn) A hand brake assembly, according to claim 18, wherein said overload protection means includes a pressure regulating means.

29. (Previously Withdrawn) A hand brake assembly, according to claim 18, wherein said hand brake assembly further includes a slip clutch connected to said operating means to provide said overload protection means for said operating means.

30. (Previously Withdrawn) A hand brake assembly engageable with a railway vehicle, said hand brake assembly comprising:

(a) a motor means having a rotatable shaft carrying a gear member thereon, said gear member engageable with at least one gear of a gear assembly disposed in a housing member of said hand brake assembly for operating said gear assembly in an application direction; and

(b) a means connected to said motor for starting said motor and thereby initiating an automatic application of said hand brake assembly.

31. (Previously Amended) A hand brake assembly, according to claim 1, wherein said hand brake assembly further includes a timing means connected intermediate said operating means and said source of fluid pressure for controlling said predetermined pressure being periodically supplied to said operating means.